Rev Amos A Phelps

Boston or Taunton

Massachusetts

Rev. Taylor Lewis

June 4th 1832

I begin to hope that some of Church have better feelings than appeared at the time you left Mr Rockwood Mrs William Adams & Susan Claflin were receiv'd yesterd to our communion Mr Howe Baptized Mr B without objection which I little thought would have been the case

we had a conference meeting at the Lumber St last evening well attended and the appearance better than I have seen them formerly there are some of serious ones that might justify an enquiry were had we but a minister to attend them O do pray for us that we may be delivered from our present state uncertainty and again enjoy the influences of the holy spirit. I call'd to see Lorinda Pond as I came from meeting who is on a sick bed she is very weak and low and I should not be at all surprised should she continue but a short time; and should I say to have exchanged places with her would have been no sacrifice I think my my feelings would justify it. such a sweet ly composed frame of mind as she exhibited when she said Jesus is every thing, every thing I want. and in his arms she seem'd like the smiling babe in its tender parents fold

but my paper is short and I must stop
short and subscribe myself
yours affectionately Elijah Fitch

settle an orthodox Man — No
the 2nd question is may we entertain any hope that you would again preach to us should we seperate and form a society No except the
3, the third question is would it be policy in the church to give Mr Curtis a call after hearing him one sabbath more the object being a speedy decision
4 the 4th would it be best to seperate without a majority of the church I mean Male — No not under the case
5th would the church be justified in acting without Mr Howes consent — No except in Extremity
6th should Mr Curtis ~~consent~~ decide not to leave his people and the committee propose another candidate should we then be justified in seperating without a trial — No not alone
these questions I put to you in a confidential manner & I should be pleased to have explicit answers if you do not deem them improper and I should be glad of an answer as soon as you can conveniently furnish me with one, for our minds cannot rest as they are long

J. Cowles

Hopkinton June 4th 1832

11

Rev & dear sir

I wrote a line to you which I expected would have gone last week by mr Bowker who went to carry your mattress but as he did not call as he promised and Mr Gibson informed me to day that he saw you and you requested him bring it to Boston we shall send by him, and I could not but write you a few lines in hast as some things have appeared that I did not know at that time one is that we are to wait till the third sabbath in June to know whether Mr Curtis will come here as a candidate Mr Howe has agreed on another exchange with him then but whether there will any more prospect then than there is now this day we cannot tell and we feel very uneasy to remain in suspence a few of the brethren of the church met to night at our lodgings to consult on the state of affairs & what will be the result I do not know but this I can say that some will be for forming a society immediately with no pastor but conjecture of future events whether this will be for the best I have some doubt and I wish to state something to you and ask your advice

the first question I shall put is it best to seperate without making one trial to